

Statement of

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Nominee to be Under Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy

Before the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

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Mr. Chairman, Senator Domenici, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be Under Secretary of Energy. I appreciate the confidence of President Bush, Secretary Bodman, and Deputy Secretary Sell in me and in my ability to assist in achieving our nation's energy goals.

I was born and reared in Rock Hill, South Carolina, studied history and political science at Presbyterian College and later received a law degree from George Mason University School of Law.

I have devoted nearly twenty years of my career to public service; in fact, except for brief periods in the private sector, I have devoted my entire career to public service. I have worked in both the legislative and the executive branches of the Federal Government, and through these experiences, I have gained a broad understanding and deep respect for the law, our government, and the important work of developing and implementing energy policy.

I have been privileged to serve in two previous Presidential Administrations. In the Reagan Administration at the Department of Justice, I worked both as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, known affectionately as the "Rocket Docket," and later at main Justice as Deputy Associate Attorney General. At that time the Associate Attorney General's office was responsible for criminal matters, with the U.S. Attorneys, FBI, DEA and other DOJ criminal enforcement organizations reporting through that office.

I continued my work in the executive branch under President George H.W. Bush at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. There, as Principal Deputy General Counsel for Secretary Jack Kemp, I had a broad range of legal and administrative responsibilities, and supervised several hundred capable attorneys in the General Counsel's operation.

This service in both the Reagan and Bush administrations yielded insight into the operation and management of large executive branch organizations not unlike that of the Department of Energy.

In the legislative branch, I have served as General Counsel to the House of Representatives District of Columbia Committee and Chief Oversight Counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. I earned valuable experience in the private sector as Vice President and Legislative Counsel of the Mortgage Bankers Association of America and as Vice President of Federal Relations at Reliant Energy.

Currently, I serve as Republican Staff Director for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where I work for Ranking Member Joe Barton of Texas. I want to take this opportunity to say how much I admire Congressman Barton for his service to the American people in the U.S. Congress and how much I appreciate him inviting me to help craft energy legislation for the Committee and the U.S. House of Representatives.

I'm particularly proud of the bipartisan success that I was involved in as the Senate and the House worked together to craft the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The give-and-take during those long hours helped develop a solid piece of legislation. Those long hours, too, allowed me to see the best and brightest people hard and honestly at work, debating policy priorities and legislating in a manner that I think would make the Founding Fathers proud. Senators Bingaman and Domenici, and Congressmen Dingell and Barton worked hard and well to advance good energy policy. I count myself lucky to have had a small role in helping that process succeed.

I believe the Under Secretary of Energy has three important responsibilities to the Nation. First, the Under Secretary has a responsibility to the past, to help remediate and cleanup the environmental legacy of the Nation's nuclear weapons program. The Under Secretary's responsibility to the present requires the pursuit and development of solutions to our current energy challenges, recognizing the importance of fossil fuels as the primary current source of the Nation's energy supply. Finally, the Under Secretary's responsibility to the future requires innovative research and development of energy efficient technologies and renewable sources of energy that will lead the United States toward energy independence.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Committee and the Congress as a whole to fulfill these responsibilities.

In closing, I again want to thank the President, Secretary Bodman, and Deputy Secretary Sell for the confidence they have placed in me and thank the Committee for considering my nomination. I hope the Senate will confirm me so that I can roll up my sleeves soon and get about the job of addressing America's energy issues.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.